



California  
Department of  
Health Services

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**Department of Health Services**



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October 4, 2006

TO: Family PACT Providers

SUBJECT: Family PACT Program Letter 06-03:  
Family PACT *Clinical Practice Alert*, "Intrauterine Contraceptives" (IUCs)

The Maternal Child and Adolescent Health/Office of Family Planning Branch issues *Clinical Practice Alerts* to provide guidance to Family PACT (Planning, Access, Care and Treatment) providers on current clinical issues. The enclosed *Alert* has been reviewed by the Family PACT Clinical Practice Committee and was developed through the use of widely accepted clinical practice recommendations that are referenced in the document.

*Clinical Practice Alerts* provide an interpretation of the Family PACT Program Standards. Providers should refer to the *Policies, Procedures, and Billing Instructions* (PPBI) manual for the complete text of the standards, official administrative practices, and billing information. For the purposes of this and other *Clinical Practice Alerts*, the term "shall" indicates a program requirement while the term "should" is advisory and not required.

This *Alert* is particularly important in highlighting three key issues:

1. It updates clinical indications by removing earlier considerations of age, parity, and history of pelvic inflammatory disease, making this highly effective contraceptive option available to many more women.
2. It reminds clinicians that IUCs must be Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved devices, labeled for use in the United States (U.S) and obtained through FDA-approved distributors.
3. Providers shall include complete medical record documentation in a client's medical record to support services claimed for reimbursement.

The FDA must approve all drugs and medical devices, including IUCs, before they are marketed, distributed, or used in the U.S. It is a fraudulent claim to bill the Family PACT or Medi-Cal programs for providing patients with medical devices that are not FDA-approved

or acquired through FDA-approved sources. Providers must maintain invoices of IUCs billed to Family PACT for at least three years from the date of the invoice.

Family PACT also would like to inform you of two important developments on the subject of IUCs:

1. The May 2006 *Medi-Cal Update* bulletin announced that effective for dates of service on or after April 10, 2006, reimbursement for HCPCS code X1522 (ParaGard® Intrauterine Device) increased to \$374.16 and reimbursement for X1532 (Mirena® Intrauterine System) increased to \$420.33.
2. Through an ongoing investigation by the California Department of Health Services, physicians have been identified who have obtained IUCs from unlicensed parties, Internet vendors, and foreign countries. The cases have been referred to the California Medical Board, State Department of Justice, and the FDA. Patients of these physicians have been sent letters advising them to consult their physician or another Family PACT or Medi-Cal provider for evaluation and additional counseling.

If you are contacted by a Family PACT or Medi-Cal client who has received a letter about her IUC, you should counsel the client and assist in her decision-making to choose to:

- Do nothing; have the IUC removed as originally scheduled
- Remove and replace the IUC
- Remove the IUC and initiate another method of birth control

There will be no cost to the client for any of these choices if she is currently eligible for either the Family PACT or Medi-Cal program. Please share the enclosed *Alert* with all clinicians providing services to Family PACT clients. Additional copies may be downloaded from our Web site at [www.familypact.org](http://www.familypact.org).

If you have questions, comments, or wish additional information or assistance, please contact Michael Policar, M.D., M.P.H., Chair, Family PACT Clinical Practice Committee, at (916) 650-0414.

Sincerely,

  
Laurie Weaver, Chief  
Office of Family Planning

Enclosure